(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, there is a proposal for construction of an Administrative Building at Nityananda Nagar plot, Ghatkopar (West) for General Manager (E-II) office.

(b) The details in this regard are as follows:

1. Area of Plot 4526 Sq. Ft.
2. Schedule of accommodation— 41350 Sq. Ft. (Non-Technical)
3. Architect has been appointed.
4. The approximate cost of project would be about Rs. 165 lacs.

(c) The project is likely to be completed by the year 1995-96.

Waiting list of telphones in Bombay

399. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a long waiting list for new telephones in Bombay;

(b) if so, by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared in different categories in the different exchanges of Bombay;

(c) the number of persons in the waiting list in different categories in the various exchanges in Bombay;

(d) what are the expansion programme for the next two years; and

(e) whether there is any programme to reduce the waiting list to less than six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, in some of the exchanges.

(b) 8th Five Year Plan of Department of Telecommunications envisage waiting list not to exceed two year in large telphone system like Bombay and telphone practically on demand in rural/tribal areas.

(c) Information is given in Annexure [*See* Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 15]

(d) During 1993-94 it is proposed to add 87000 lines of net switching capacity & 125000 lines of net switching capacity during 1994-95.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Indigenous units not getting orders from DoT

400. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several indigenous manufacturers of components and assembly units in the medium and small sectors had not got any orders from the DoT for the last six months as foreign suppliers were allowed supply and installation of equipment directly in India;

(b) if so, whether these units are facing a financial crunch which is mounting;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that several thousand workers in these units are on the verge of losing their jobs as they were laid off; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure the financial viability of these indigenous small and medium units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of reply to part (a), question does not arise.

Concessions for bulk mailing of commercial articles

401. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered concessions for bulk mailing of commercial articles through bulk-mail counters;

(b) if so, what is the rationale behind extending such concessions; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider enforcing a two-slab system of postal tarif-one for the public at the existing subsidised rates and the other for commercial trade community on actual cost basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A rebate is now given at Bulk Mail Centres when pre-sorted letters commercial or otherwise of a specified minimum number are presented for posting.

(b) when bulk mail is presented in a pre-stored condition, there is a saving on staff costs in the posting office and mail can also be despatched expeditiously.

(c) There is no such proposal at present. However, in so far as postcards are concerned, a higher rate for postcards containing printing communication as compared to other postcards is already in force.

Programmes sponsored for rural telephones

402. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Three Indian Groups of Telecom companies are separately sponsoring a programme for rural telehones; and

(b) if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Participation of Private Sector Companies for improvement of Telecommunications

403. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include Private Sector for the improvement of telecommunications in the country;

(b) if so, whether any package of financial incentives has been recommended;

(c) is so, whether the Private Sector has urged Government that the package should be on the same pattern as that of four projects; and

(d) if so, how many private sector companies have come forward for the development of telecommunications in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There are certain proposals in this regard which are under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.